

tions, and those who call themselves "doctor" and sign "M.D." to their names, who never were in a college nor passed a single examination. Testimonials have been purchased from prominent persons for which large sums were paid.

In any measure, or legal enactments, passed by the Government to regulate the sale of patent medicines, a few well recognized principles should be clearly set forth. The makers should be compelled to give the exact composition of the compound put on the market; all guarantees of cures should be strictly prohibited, as this is practically fraudulent; the publishing of abusive statements about physicians and surgeons should be stopped; the right reserved to examine testimonials for their genuineness; and authority to enquire into cases reported as cured.

To show the absurdity of some of these testimonials let us mention one. Some time ago we saw a recommendation of a certain medicine from a prominent clergyman; but the amusing part of the whole affair was that the name of the medicine was an absurdity and a chemical impossibility. The thing mentioned in the name could form no part of the compound. And yet the medicine was highly praised by a prominent clergyman!

QUACK ADVERTISEMENTS AND THE MAILS.

During the recent session of the House of Commons, Sir William Mulock introduced the following amendment to the Postal Act:—"It shall not be lawful to transmit by mail any books, magazines, periodicals, circulars, newspapers or other publications which contain advertisements representing marvellous, extravagant or grossly improbable cures, or curative or healing powers, by means of medicines, appliances or devices referred to in such advertisements." After some discussion, the amendment was agreed to; but, later on, was dropped for the present. During the discussion Sir William Mulock, the Postmaster General, said:—"It was necessary to put a stop to the methods of scoundrels who advertise marvellous cures and make fortunes out of the unfortunate sufferers. Only the other day one advertisement claiming supernatural powers and shocking in its nature was published. This method of making fortunes was one of the hugest frauds allowed by the law of the land."

We could point out some most scandalous instances of the most objectionable stuff being sent in great quantities by post. In one instance of recent date, a circular of the most filthy character came into our possession, dealing with the sexual functions, and containing